

THE WEEKLY NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER

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LETTERS FROM THE ALLEGHANY MOUNTAINS.

QUALLATOWN, (N. C.) May 12, 1848.

In coming from Franklin to this place, a distance of thirty miles, I travelled over a wild, mountainous, and thinly settled country, where I was pained to witness the evil effects of a temperate, and made happy by following the windings of a beautiful river. Having been overtaken by a thunder-storm, I found shelter in a rude and comfortable cabin, which was occupied by a man and his wife and eight children. Every member of the family was barefooted, and one or two of the children almost destitute of clothing; not one of the children, though one or two of them were full-grown girls, could read a single word; the mother was sickly and haggard in her appearance, and one of the little boys told me that he had not eaten a hearty meal for ten days. I subsequently learned that the head of this household was a miserable drunkard.

The river to which I alluded is the Tuck-a-wee, which empties into the Tennessee. It is a very rapid stream, and washes the base of many mountains, which are as wild as they were a century ago. Wherever there occurs any interval land the soil is very rich, and such spots are usually occupied by a single wild flower, where wild game is found in abundance. The fact is, the people of this whole region devote more of their time to hunting than they do to agriculture, which fact accounts for their proverbial poverty. You can hardly pass a single cabin without being howled at by half a dozen hounds, and I have now become so well educated in guessing the wealth of a mountaineer, that I can fix his condition by ascertaining the number of his dogs. A rich man seldom has more than one dog, while a very poor man will keep from ten to a dozen. And this remark with regard to dogs, strange as it may seem, is equally applicable to the children of the mountaineers. The poorest man, without any exception, whom I have seen in this region, lives in a log cabin with two rooms, and is the father of nineteen children, and the keeper of six hounds.

On my arrival in this place, which is the home of a large number of Cherokee Indians, (of whom I shall have much to say in future letters,) I became the guest of Mr. WILLIAM H. THOMAS, who is the "guide, counsellor, and friend" of the Indians, as well as their business agent. While conversing with this gentleman he excited my curiosity with regard to a certain mountain in his vicinity, and having settled it in his own mind that I should spend a week or two with him and his Indians, proposed (first excusing himself on account of a business engagement) that I should visit the mountain in company with a gentleman in his employ as a surveyor. The proposed arrangement was carried out, and this was it that I visited Smoky Mountain.

This mountain is the loftiest of a large brookhead, which lies crowded together upon the dividing line between North Carolina and Tennessee. Its height cannot be less than five thousand feet above the level of the sea, for the road leading from its base to its summit is seven and a half miles long. The general character of the mountain is similar to that already given of other Southern mountains, and all that I can say of its panorama is, that I can conceive of nothing more grand and imposing. It gives birth to a pair of glorious streams, the *Pigeon river* of Tennessee, and the *Oconee* of North Carolina, and derives its name from the circumstance that its summit is always enveloped, on account of its height, in a blue or smoky atmosphere.

But the chief attraction of Smoky Mountain is a singular cliff known throughout this region as the *Alum Cave*. In reaching this spot, which is on the Tennessee side, you have to leave your horses on the top of the mountain, and perform a pedestrian pilgrimage of about six miles up and down, very far up and over so far down, and over every thing in the way of rocks and ruined vegetation which Nature could possibly devise, until you come to a mountain-side, which is only two miles from your starting place at the peak. Rearing along at the base of the mountain-side alluded to is a small stream, from the margin of which you have to climb a precipice, in a zigzag way, which is at least two thousand feet high, when you find yourself on a level spot of pulverized stone, with a rocky roof extending over your head a distance of fifty or sixty feet. The length of this hollow in the mountain, or "cave," as it is called, is near four hundred feet, and from the brow of the hutting precipice to the level below the distance is perhaps one hundred and fifty feet. The top of the cliff is covered with a variety of rare and curious plants, and directly over its centre trickles a little stream of water, which forms a tiny pool, like a fountain in front of a spacious piazza. The principal ingredients of the rock composing this which cliff are alum, opium salts, sulphate, magnesia, and copper, and the water which oozes therefrom is distinguished for its strong medicinal qualities. This strange and almost inaccessible but unquestionably very valuable cave belongs to a company of neighboring Carolinians, who have already made some money out of the alum, but have not yet accomplished much in the way of purifying and exporting the various products in which it abounds.

The scenery upon which this cave looks down, however, interested me quite as much as the cave itself. From the most comprehensive point of view two mountains descend abruptly into a kind of amphitheatre, where the one on the right terminates in a very narrow and ragged ridge, which is without a particle of vegetation, while far beyond, directly in front of the cave, rises a lofty and pointed mountain, backed by some three or four of inferior magnitude. The ridge which I have mentioned is itself very high, but yet the cave looks down upon it, and it is so fantastic in its appearance that from different points of view you may discover holes leading like funnels entirely through it, while from other places you might fancy that you looked upon a ruined castle, a decayed battlement, or the shattered tower of an old cathedral. To gaze upon this prospect at the sunset hour, when the mountains were tinged with a rosy hue, and the immense hollow before me was filled with a purple atmosphere, and I could see the rocky ledge basking in the sunlight like a huge monster on the placid bosom of a lake, was to me one of the most remarkable and impressive scenes that I ever witnessed; and then remember, too, that I looked upon this wonderful prospect from a framework of solid rock, composed of the sloping cliff. It was a glorious picture, indeed, and would have amply repaid me for a pilgrimage from the remotest corner of the earth.

The ordinary time required to visit the Alum Cave is two days; but, owing to bad weather, my friend and myself occupied the most of four days in performing the same trip. To give a minute account of all that we met with would occupy too much time, and I will, therefore, only record in this place the incidents which made the deepest impression on my own mind.

Our first night from home we spent in the cabin of a man who treated us with the utmost kindness, and would not receive a penny for his pains. So much for mountain hospitality. And now, to prove that our friend was an intelligent man, it may be mentioned that he is an expert in the following professions and trades, viz. those of medicine, the law, the blacksmith, the carpenter, the hunter, the shoemaker, the watchmaker, the farmer, and he also seemed to possess an inkling of some half dozen sciences. Now, I do not exactly mean to assert that the gentleman is a master practitioner in all these departments of human learning and industry; but,

if you were to judge of his ability by his use of technical words, you would not for a moment imagine that he could have a competitor. But it is in this wild region, one man has to perform the intellectual labor of a whole district; and, what is really a hard case, the knowledge which is thus brought to so good a market, is nearly always the fruit of a chance education, and not of a systematic one.

Among those who spent the night with us under the roof of the above accomplished man, was one of the idle vagabonds of the country. This individual, it appears, had met with a singular accident on the day previous, and amused us by relating it. I regret that I cannot remember all the singular epithets that he employed, but I will do my best to report him faithfully:

"Now, the way the thing happened was this, and I reckon you never heard such like before. A lot of us fellows was out in 'Squire Jones's' millpond a washing ourselves and swimming. Now, I allow this pond, in a common way, is nigh on to half a mile long; but at this time they were draining the pond, and it wasn't so very large. Well, there was one spot, well nigh the middle—no, not exactly; I reckon it was a little less than the middle—where the water come out into the creek. The fellow I was with got the devil in 'em, and offered to bet the tobacco that I couldn't swim near the big hole in the dam without going through. I agreed, for I always counted myself a powerful swimmer. I made one try, and just touched the outside of the whorlpool. The fellow laughed at me and said I couldn't come in. I knew they said, 'well, it was not so, and I got out and went to the top of the dam, and there they yelled out again and said it was no go. By this time I was considerably perplexed, but I swore to myself I would have the tobacco, and I made one more try. But this time I got into the whorlpool, and couldn't get out; and, in less than no time, the water wheeled me head first to the hole, and in less than a wink I was under. I went through the hole, 'bout four or six feet long—no, I allow 'twas a foot—fell into the surge below, and, in five minutes or so—perhaps six—I was on dry land, safe as a button. The joke was on the fellow then, and, when I told 'em to hand over my plunder, they said they would, and told me I looked like a big frog when I come out of the hole into the pool below the dam."

On the following morning we travelled to the foot of Smoky Mountains, and having obtained a guide, who happened to be one of the proprietors of Alum Cave, we resumed our journey. In the immediate vicinity of the cave we came across an Indian camp, where were two Indians who were out bear-hunting. We were admitted under their bark roof, and when spent the night, sleeping upon the ground. We remained a sufficient length of time to enjoy one supper and one breakfast; the first was composed of corn bread and bear meat, and the second of trout (caught in a neighboring stream) and a corn cake fried in the fat of a bear.

On questioning our Indian landlady, as we sat around our watch fire, with regard to the Alum Cave, I could only gather the fact that it was originally discovered by the famous chief Yon-suck-ga, who happened in his youth to track a bear to one of its caverns, where he had been disappointed. On this score, I then turned to our guide to see what he could tell me about the cave that was not connected with its minerals, and the substance of his narrative was as follows:

"I haven't much to say about the cave that I know of, except one or two little circumstances about myself and another man. The first time I came here was with my brother and two Indians. The sight of this strange gash in the mountain and the beautiful scenery all around made me very excited, and I was for climbing on top, and so mistake. The Indians and my brother started with me up the ledge, and the second end of the cave, but when we got up about the way I just suppose to an eagle's nest, where the creature were screaming at a fearful rate, all three of 'em backed down, and said I must not keep on. I told 'em I was determined to see the top, and I would. I did not get on top, and, looking around a while and laughing at the fellows below, I began to think of going down again. And then it was that I felt a good deal scared. I found I could not get down the way I got up, so I turned about for a new place. It was now near sundown, and I hadn't yet found a place that suited me, and I was afraid I'd have to sleep out alone and without any fire. And the only way I ever got down was to find a pine tree that stood pretty close to a low part of the ledge, some three hundred yards from the cave, when I got into its top, and as I came down among my friends, who said it was a wonder I hadn't been killed."

"I generally have had to pilot all strangers to the cave since that time, and I remember one circumstance that happened to a Tennessee lawyer, who caused us a good deal of fun; for there was a party of young gentlemen there at the time. We had a camp right under the cave, where it's always dark, and about midnight the lawyer I mentioned suddenly jumped up as we were all asleep, and began to yell in the most awful manner, as if something dreadful had happened. He jumped about as if in the greatest agony, and called on God to have mercy on him, for he knew he would die. O, he did carry on at a most awful rate, and we thought he must have been bitten by some snake or was crazy, so we one of his clothes to see what was the matter; and what do you suppose we found? Nothing but a harmless little lizard, that had run up the poor man's legs, all the way up to his armpit, thinking, I suppose, that his clothes was the bark of a dead tree. After the trouble was all over, the way we laughed at the fellow was curious."

Our second day at the Alum Cave (and third one from home) was a remarkably cheerless one; for a regular snow-storm set in, mingled with hail, and before we could reach our horses and descend the Smoky Mountain, some three or four inches of snow had fallen. We spent that night under the roof of our good friend and worthy man, the guide, and with as difficulty that we could induce him to receive a quarter eagle for all his trouble in piloting us and treating us to his best fare. On that night we ate our supper at nine o'clock, and what rendered it somewhat peculiar was the fact that his two eldest daughters, and very pretty girls besides, waited upon us at table, holding above our heads a couple of torches made of the fat pine. That was the first time that I was ever waited upon in so regal a style, and more than once during the feast did I long to retire in a corner of the smoky and dingy cabin to take a sketch of the romantic scene. At sunrise on the following morning my companion and myself remounted our horses, and in three hours were eating our breakfast in Qualla Town.

"CLAY AND BOTS FOR TAYLOR.—We have information, in a confidential source, that Mr. Clay is about to give in his adhesion to the nomination of Gen. Taylor, and call upon his friends to enlist under the Taylor banner. Mr. Bots has stated that this is Mr. Clay's determination, and there could be no better authority than this. Mr. Bots will himself, it is said, soon come out with a letter addressed to the Clay Whigs of Virginia, in which he will give reasons for coming finally into the Taylor current."—*Corres. Jour. of Com.*

MESSRS. EDITORS: You are authorized and requested to state that the above paragraph, in the "Sun" of this date, (taken from the New York Journal of Commerce), has not the slightest foundation in truth. Whatever course Mr. Bots may deem it his duty to take in the premises, it is certain that he has not given and will not give authority to any other to speak for him; but will speak for himself when, in his opinion, the proper time shall have arrived. He declines any authority to speak for Mr. CLAY.

WHIG MEETING AT THE WARRENTON SPRINGS.

We are requested to state that the meeting of the friends of Gen. TAYLOR, to be held at the Warrenton Springs, in Fauquier county, Virginia, is fixed for the 21st and 22d days of July. It is understood that the Hon. Messrs. JOHN M. CLAYTON, BELL, CORWIN, and others of the Senate, and Messrs. THOMAS, STEPHENS, GENTRY, R. W. THOMPSON, and CLAY, will be there, and most or all of them will, address the meeting. What Whig in a hundred miles will, for light reason, lose the chance to hear such a corps of public speakers? The meeting is to be held two days.—*Al. J. Gaz.*

CURE FOR ILL TEMPER.—A sensible woman, the doctor's acquaintance, (the mother of a young family), entered so far into his views upon this subject, that she taught her children from their earliest childhood to consider ill humor as a disorder which was to be cured by physic. Accordingly, she had always small doses ready, and the little patients, whenever it was thought needful, took rhubarb for the crookedness. No punishment was required. Peevishness or ill-temper and rhubarb were associated in their minds always as cause and effect.

CLAIMS ON MEXICO.

In Executive session, Senate of the United States, June 21, 1848.

Resolved, That the injunction of secrecy be removed from the first and fifth articles of the unratified convention for the settlement of claims of the citizens and Government of the Mexican Republic against the Government of the United States, and of the citizens and Government of the United States against the Government of the Mexican Republic, concluded at the city of Mexico the 20th of November, 1843, as proposed to be ratified by the Senate of the United States; which unratified convention is referred to, and the first and fifth articles thereof made a part of the fifteenth article of the treaty of peace, friendship, limits, and settlement between the United States of America and the Mexican Republic, concluded at Guadalupe Hidalgo on the 2d day of February, 1848.

ART. 11. All claims of citizens of the Mexican Republic against the Government of the United States, which shall be presented in the manner and time hereinafter expressed, and all claims of citizens of the United States against the Government of the Mexican Republic, which, for whatever cause, were not submitted to, nor considered, nor finally decided by the commission, nor by the arbiters appointed by the convention of 1839, and which shall be presented in the manner and time hereinafter specified, shall be referred to four commissioners, who shall form a board, and shall be appointed in the following manner, that is to say: Two commissioners shall be appointed by the President of the Mexican Republic, and the other two by the President of the United States, with the approbation and consent of the Senate. The said commissioners, thus appointed shall, in presence of each other, take an oath to examine and decide impartially the claims submitted to them, and which may lawfully be considered, according to the proofs which shall be presented, the principles of right and justice, the law of nations, and the treaties between the two Republics.

ART. 5. All claims of citizens of the United States against the Government of the Mexican Republic, which were considered by the commissioners, and referred to the umpire appointed under the convention of the 11th of April, 1839, and which were not decided by him, shall be referred to, and decided by the umpire to be appointed, as provided by this convention, on the points submitted to the umpire under the late convention, and his decision shall be final and conclusive. It is also agreed that, if the respective commissioners shall deem it expedient, they may submit to the said arbiters new arguments upon the said claims.

THE NEW YORK RATIFICATION MEETING.

FROM THE N. Y. COMMERCIAL ADVERTISER OF WEDNESDAY.

We were present, from first to last, at the meeting last evening, in front of National Hall, and in a favorable position for observation. Our estimate of the proceedings will differ in some respects from the accounts which appear in the evening papers, and we can only say that we "nothing extensive nor ought set down in malice" in our narrative; any thing like a formal report would not convey an idea of the meeting and its concomitants.

At a little after seven o'clock groups of men were assembled in the neighborhood, discussing, not in all cases with the intelligence and good temper that one would have desired, the respective merits of TAYLOR and CLAY. It was manifest, even at that hour, that feeling would run high. Very shortly after the hour fixed for commencement—half past seven—several members of the general committee ascended the stage, and the meeting was called to order by Mr. J. H. HAWES, who nominated as chairman PHILIP HONE, Esq.

Mr. J. R. TAYLOR then proposed the following persons as Vice Presidents, who were appointed:

Hon. Luther Bradish, Robert Hyslop, Geo. Zahriske, Hon. Hamilton Fish, A. W. Bradford, Francis V. May, Hon. Moses H. Grinnell, Hon. J. Phillips Pharris, Ernest Fink, Hon. David B. Ogden, James H. Smith, Caleb S. Woodhull, Jonathan Goodhue, Samuel Sparks, Gen. Anthony Lamb, James B. Thompson, Thomas B. Sullivan, James Rayburn, Peter S. Titus, Robert H. Ruggles, Samuel Frost, James H. Williams, Steven Cooper, David L. Hoag, A. Sydney Duane, Richard T. McKimney, Edgar Mills, Joshua Thurston, Albert T. Ryder, Henry R. Dunham, Joseph Tucker, Zebulon Ring, Wm. H. Sweet, David L. Young, Stephen H. Drayler, J. Prescott Hall, Daniel Lord, D. A. Cushman, Nicholas C. Everett, Henry Kreps, Wm. Mandeville, Aaron R. Thompson, Robert T. Hans, Peletiah Peret, John Duer, James Lynch, Thomas Kennedy, David L. Bennett, John Conger, Charles Town.

On motion of Mr. ZORNER MILLS, the following gentlemen were appointed Secretaries:

Charles Cook, George G. Taylor, John L. Lefferts, Hamilton Wade, Moss A. Hoppock, M. Hopper Mot, George F. Nesbitt, Chandler Ingersoll, George J. Cornell, James Van Norden, Jesse K. Weeks, E. Deland Stone, Wm. M. Haydock, Robert G. Campbell, Jonathan W. Allen, John Ridley, H. Howard Cargill, James Brooks.

At this time the meeting, though respectable in numbers, was not to be called large, but was rapidly increasing, and before long presented an immense, far-spreading mass of human beings. When Mr. HONE commenced his address we were able to pass conveniently through the crowd, except just in front of the stage, where the assemblage was more closely packed, and a number of young men and boys had planted themselves, with the manifest intention of disturbing the speakers and drowning their voices. The outer circle at this time was also composed of those unfavorable to the objects of the meeting, and truth compels us to say that many admirers of Mr. Clay allowed their excitement to overcome their love of order and manly liberality toward others. They would neither listen themselves nor allow others to hear, but pertinaciously continued their interruption, though more than once remonstrated with, both as gentlemen and as Whigs.

In consequence of these interruptions Mr. HONE's remarks were in the main inaudible, and, remembering his long service in the Whig cause, he could not conceal his chagrin at the impetuous opposition manifested. An unfortunate expression or two—to the effect that he was a Whig before these "brats" were born; they were only a parcel of youths—tended to increase the excitement. Mr. HONE soon ceased speaking, and Mr. H. E. DAVIES came forward to read a letter from Mr. Speaker WINTHROP. After this time other discordant elements had been freely introduced into the meeting. We recognized several known adherents of the Democratic party, who were very justly leading off cheers for Henry Clay, and we soon found that these had assembled in large numbers in the eastern wing of the meeting. Several were custom-house officers. They groined for Taylor, cheered for Clay, and excited others to interrupt the meeting with more ill-timed than fairness or courtesy.

While Mr. DAVIES was reading Mr. WINTHROP's letter, which we give below, the meeting having now swelled to an immense multitude, we moved from the immediate neighborhood of the stage and secured a favorable position in front of National Hall. Here we had a full view of all the movements of the oddly compounded assemblage. At the conclusion of Mr. Wintthrop's letter, Mr. HONE introduced Senator DAYTON, of New Jersey, for whom he earnestly asked a hearing. It being plain at this time that notwithstanding the

coalition of many professed Whigs with the strong muster of Democrats, the supporters of the nomination were in the majority and would yet triumph unless the meeting was broken up, a very strong effort was made to effect the latter, and it was probably from five to ten minutes before Mr. Dayton could say an audible word. When finally he essayed to control the storm, his voice was again drowned in the shouts of the disturbers. Mr. HONE again came forward and said:

Brother Whigs—I beg your pardon—I called you brother Whigs; I am sorely mistaken; you are not. [Cheers, hisses, and hurrahs.] I introduce to you a gentleman, a distinguished Whig, [cries of "we're all Whigs,"] whom you all know, and if you don't give him a hearing the truth is not in you. If there be a man who, more than another, deserves to be heard, Senator Dayton, of the United States Senate, is that man. [Cheers, and counter cheers, and some disturbance.] Mr. Dayton then obtained a partial but constantly interrupted hearing. Once or twice some known Democrats made such violent attempts at disturbance that the patience of the Whigs was exhausted, and the intruders were violently ejected, and some fighting took place. This having been repeated several times, it became manifest that the Taylor Whigs were masters if they chose to exert their power, and violent interruptions became less continuous though still frequent and noisy. This speaker, however, was assailed throughout with all sorts of questions, innuendoes and philippics, but preserved his good temper and collectedness throughout. He passed some eloquent eulogiums upon Gen. Taylor.

At the close of his address another attempt at disturbance was made, but the cries of "turn them out," and the speedy expulsion which followed restored comparative quiet. Mr. HENRY E. DAVIES, on behalf of the committee, then presented an Address, the reading of which was frequently interrupted by cheers.

Some parts of the address were loudly cheered, and other portions as earnestly opposed. The pledge of support was the signal for a tremendous outbreak, but the cheering predominated. Mr. H. J. RAYMOND then read a series of resolutions.

The address and resolutions were then adopted by a very large majority. Mr. HONE playfully remarked that he hoped the Whigs would now be silent and let the Cass men have all the noise to themselves. During the reading, a bonfire on the right suddenly blazed up, and there was brought forward within its glare the flag of the "New York Buena Vista Guard," the appearance of which was greeted with most enthusiastic applause.

Mr. OGDEN HOFFMAN next spoke, and, though at first there was violent interruption, he soon threw a spell over the vast concourse, and was listened to during most of the time with absorbed attention. Occasionally an exclamation of dissent, or three cheers for Henry Clay and as many more for General Taylor, would break in, but upon the whole Mr. HOFFMAN was heard with nearly as much attention as he would have received at any out-door political meeting.

Mr. TAYLOR followed in an eloquent speech, every word, like the tone of a distant bell, coming clear and distinct upon the ear above the tumult and noise. He congratulated the Whig party upon the strong and overwhelming evidence of determined adhesion to the nomination, and spoke at length with good effect. The opposition was now confined almost entirely to a small group on the east wing, who made several attempts to create a general disturbance. They were so closely packed, however, that their efforts were cramped, and, thus, standing revealed as the originators of most of the opposition, gradually drew in their horns.

Mr. BACCHUS followed, and it being already late, the chair declined to put the question on ratifying the nomination. We could see over the vast area covered by the multitude, and we looked with some anxiety for the result. The nomination of TAYLOR and FILLMORE was ratified by an overwhelming majority, and so far as the Whigs were concerned, by all but a unanimous vote. When this consummation was thus happily reached, the meeting quietly dispersed, after giving nine cheers for the Whig ticket.

At the close, some youths and others remained on the stage, and for five minutes enacted some follies before two or three hundred spectators, who, however, soon wearied of it, and quietly went their way.

MR. WINTHROP'S LETTER.

WASHINGTON, JUNE 24, 1848.

GENTLEMEN: I have the honor to acknowledge your obliging communication of the 19th instant, renewing the invitation heretofore given me, to address the Whigs of New York in regard to the candidates recently nominated at Philadelphia for the Presidency and Vice Presidency of the United States.

My public duties will not allow me to leave Washington during the session of Congress, and I shall thus be deprived of the pleasure of meeting you on the 27th instant.

But I venture to express my earnest hope and belief that a voice will be heard on this occasion from the Whigs of New York like that which has just reached us from my own immediate constituents at Faneuil Hall—a voice of unhesitating, unequivocal assent, concurrence, and ratification.

The Whigs of the Union can elect General TAYLOR President of the United States, if they will. They can elect nobody else. The only other result they can accomplish is the success of General CASS. If any of them think fit to adopt the latter of these two alternatives, they may denounce whom they please as being no true Whigs, they will convict nobody but themselves.

As the fairly selected nominee of the National Convention, in which the Whig party, the whole Whig party, and nothing but the Whig party, was represented, Gen. TAYLOR is, in my judgment, entitled to the support of all who recognize party organization.

As an avowed Whig—none the less likely to be a true Whig, a firm Whig, or a wise Whig, because he has confessed himself not to be an ultra Whig—he has a right, as I think, to the support of all who have voluntarily united in a Convention which has declared him its candidate.

But, as an honest man, of spotless character, sterling integrity, strong sense, indomitable courage, tried patriotism, and just principles, he has far higher and stronger claims upon us all.

I believe him to be all this, and more than all this. We have had some touches of his quality which cannot be mistaken. Under him I believe we shall have a peaceful, virtuous, patriotic, and constitutional Administration. And if any accident should befall him, (which Heaven avert!) your own MILLARD FILLMORE will carry out such an Administration to its legitimate conclusion.

I congratulate you, gentlemen, on the prospect before us. Nothing throws a cloud or a shadow over it but our own momentary dimensions, and these will rapidly vanish into thin air.

Believe me, with great respect,
Your fellow-citizen and fellow-Whig,
ROBERT C. WINTHROP.
J. H. H. HAWES, J. R. TAYLOR, and R. H. THAYER, Esqs., Committee.

JUMPING THE TRACKS.—In New Jersey the Locofocos have as much as they can do to keep down spontaneous combustion in favor of General TAYLOR. Their committee of vigilance for Burlington county have deemed it necessary to issue an address urging their own partisans not to support Old Zack. The New Brunswick Times, a Loco paper, begins a long leader in this laudatory strain:

"We have heard that a few of our friends in the country have expressed a determination to vote for General TAYLOR. Reports to this effect are now circulated, and among others several Democrats of influence are named as being in favor of Taylor! We do not believe half the stories which are afloat in reference to prominent men of our party, but still think it proper to refer to the subject at this time for the purpose of bringing it fairly before our readers."

GREAT FIRE AT SORRELL, IN CANADA.—There were recently five houses destroyed by fire at Sorrell, Canada, on Saturday, the 24th instant.

THIRTIETH CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

[EXTRACTS FROM OUR DAILY REPORTS.]

IN SENATE.

Mr. DIX presented a memorial from Miss D. S. Dix, asking an appropriation to provide for the relief and support of the indigent insane in the several States of the Union. In presenting the same, Mr. D. said:

I rise, Mr. President, to present a memorial from Miss Dix, who is well known to the American public for her disinterested efforts in ameliorating the condition of the indigent insane. For many years her time, her health, and her pecuniary means have been freely spent in this charitable service. Through her perseverance, and through the impressive produced by the information which she has gathered, institutions have been reared in different parts of the country; the wealthy have contributed from their abundance, and States laboring under heavy burdens of debt have heavily taxed themselves for the relief of a class which, of all others, has the strongest claim to our sympathy and support.

The memorialist asks that a portion of the public lands may be appropriated for the purpose of affording relief and support to this unhappy class in each State of the Union. Her memorial contains a mass of interesting and instructive information, derived partly from public sources, and founded partly on her own personal observation; and her application is supported by reasonings and facts which cannot fail to make a strong impression upon the minds of the Senators.

It is due to her to say that she comes before the Senate with the greatest reluctance, but that she has yielded to a sense of duty, which has overruled all personal considerations, in behalf of the cause of humanity, which she pleads.

I will read to the Senate a very few passages from the closing pages of the memorial.

[Then Mr. D. read the following passages.]
[Ask, Mr. President, that this memorial may be printed. Its object is purely public, and its purpose is co-extensive with the universality of the moral disease which it aims to relieve. It does not concern one State alone, but all. And, in view of the importance of the subject, I also ask that it may be referred to a select committee, to be appointed by the presiding officer, so far as the same be not incompatible with the principles of the Senate.]

The motion having been agreed to, the Chair named Messrs. DIX, BENTON, BELL, HARRISON, and DAVIS, of Massachusetts.

On motion, five thousand extra copies of the memorial were ordered to be printed.

RAILROAD TO THE PACIFIC.

Mr. NILES obtained the unanimous consent of the Senate to report a bill to sell to Assn. Wm. White, of New York, a portion of the public lands, to enable him to construct a railroad from Lake Michigan to the Pacific ocean.

Mr. NILES briefly addressed the Senate upon the subject, but it was impossible to hear him in the gallery. He alluded to the fact of the numerous memorials that had been presented from individuals, State Legislatures, &c., and referred to the Committee on the Public Lands, which committee had not yet reported.

Mr. BRESEE defended the Committee on the Public Lands, on the ground of the magnitude and importance of the subject, and said they were not prepared to report a bill, but that a report had been made at some length at a prior session, and the committee had been waiting to prepare some plan which might ensure success to the undertaking.

The bill was then referred to a select committee, to be appointed by the Chair, when the following gentlemen were named: Messrs. NILES, CORWIS, LEWIS, DIX, and FALLER.

OREGON BILL.

The bill to establish a Territorial Government in Oregon became the order of the day.

Mr. DAVIS, of Mississippi, sent to the chair the following amendment, to come in at the close of the bill:

Provided, That nothing contained in this act shall be construed as to authorize the prohibition of domestic slavery in said territory whilst it remains in the condition of a territory, so far as the same be not incompatible with the principles and provisions of this act; subject, nevertheless, to be altered, modified, or repealed by the governor and legislative assembly of said Territory of Oregon; and the laws of the United States are hereby extended over, and declared to be in force in said territory, so far as the same or any provision thereof may be applicable."

Mr. BRIGHT said that he had at an early day moved to strike out the twelfth section of the bill, with a view to avoid the discussion which he saw was likely to ensue; but it not appearing likely to be the case, he had subsequently withdrawn the motion. It is said, however, he renewed by the Senator from Georgia, (Mr. BERRIEN,) which had led to so much discussion. The Senator from Mississippi (Mr. DAVIS) had also proposed an amendment, which involved another question of equal delicacy. Under these circumstances, he felt it his duty to lay before the Senate an amendment which, though it would not satisfy the entire country, (for there were some determined not to be satisfied,) might yet restore peace to our distracted councils on a subject which menaced the very safety of the Union. The amendment was bottomed on the Missouri compromise.

Mr. B. then sent to the Chair the following amendment, which, on motion of Mr. TURNEY, was ordered to be printed:

"And he is further enacted, That in all the Territories owned by the United States, including Oregon, New Mexico, and Upper California, which lies north of 36° 30' north latitude, slavery and involuntary servitude, otherwise than in the punishment of crimes whereof the parties shall have been duly convicted, shall be and is hereby forever prohibited: Provided, always, That any person escaping into the same whose labor or service is lawfully claimed in any State or Territory of the United States, such fugitive may be lawfully reclaimed and conveyed to the person claiming his or her labor or service as aforesaid."

Mr. BERRIEN was not disposed to rest under the charge of having been the means of bringing about this protracted discussion. The twelfth section was put in the bill by the committee, and the Senator from Indiana, on the ground of a spirit of conciliation, had moved to strike it out. If he had persisted in this course, he would have been entirely correct, and would have caused. He (Mr. B.) had made the same motion, in the same spirit and with the same feelings, and had expressed at the time the hope that there might be no debate; and, in manifestation of his honesty of purpose, had not offered a word in support of the motion, contenting himself simply with demanding the yeas and nays. The result, therefore, must be at the door of the Senator, and not with him. He concerned entirely with the views entertained by the Senator from Indiana, and felt with him that the subject was one that deeply menaced the safety of the Union.

Mr. BRIGHT hoped he was not understood as meaning to construe the Senator from Georgia. He certainly had no such intention.

Mr. NIERWOOD then offered a few remarks touching an amendment he desired to offer to that submitted by Mr. BERRIEN, the effect of which was a proviso to allow all persons who chose to migrate to the newly acquired territory south of 36° 30' to take any species of property they please, and be guaranteed in the possession thereof according to the laws of the States they may have left.

The amendment was ordered to be printed.

The above are the principal amendments which, up to this time, have been offered to the Oregon bill. The subject is undergoing an elaborate discussion.

SURVEY OF MOUTH OF RED RIVER.